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PAGE 01            ADDIS   03664   172156Z  
ACTION RP-10

INFO	LOG-00	AF-01	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00
	DODE-00	EB-01	OIGO-01	HA-09	HHS-01	H-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	IO-16	L-01	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02
	PA-01	PRS-01	P-01	SP-00	SR-00	SS-00	STR-01
	TRSE-00	USIE-00	RPE-01	/051W			
				-----47F8C7   172156Z /38			

O 171432Z MAY 94 ZDK  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2361  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY BANJUL  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: PHUM, OAU, UNHCR, RW, ET  
SUBJECT: REQUEST TO SOLICIT VIEWS OF OAU ON EMERGENCY  
SESSION ON RWANDA OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

REF: STATE 130151 (NOTAL)

1. AMBASSADOR MET WITH OAU SECRETARY GENERAL SALIM MAY  
17 (AFTER COORDINATING WITH CANADIAN AMBASSADOR, WHO WAS  
HAPPY TO HAVE US TAKE THE LEAD -- HE HAS BEEN INFORMED  
OF THE RESULTS) TO RAISE ISSUES IN REFTEL. SALIM SAID  
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PAGE 02            ADDIS   03664   172156Z  
THAT OAU WELCOMED THE EMERGENCY SESSION OF THE UN HUMAN  
RIGHTS COMMISSION, BUT THAT HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO  
ATTEND, GIVEN THAT MAY 24 WAS AFRICA DAY, AND THERE  
WOULD BE A CERTAIN NUMBER OF EVENTS IN ADDIS ABABA THAT  
HE NEEDED TO ATTEND. AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT  
PERHAPS THE BEST CELEBRATION OF AFRICA DAY WOULD BE FOR  
SALIM TO ATTEND A MEETING ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN RWANDA AND  
THEREBY CALL ATTENTION TO THIS PROBLEM. SALIM AGREED,  
BUT SAID HE COULDN'T GET AWAY. AT AMBASSADOR'S URGING,  
HE AGREED TO SEND A SPECIAL ENVOY IF THE OAU WAS  
INVITED, RATHER THAN JUST HAVE THE SESSION COVERED BY

THE OAU'S AMBASSADOR IN GENEVA.

2. CONCERNING THE OTHER ISSUES IN REFTTEL, SALIM WELCOMED THE NAMING OF A SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR, AS WELL AS THE DEPLOYMENT OF A UN-SPONSORED HUMAN RIGHTS MONITOR, TO INVESTIGATE AND DOCUMENT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT IT WAS UNCLEAR TO HIM WHETHER THESE INDIVIDUALS WOULD BE ABLE AT PRESENT TO FUNCTION IN RWANDA, BUT IN ANY EVENT, THIS WAS A LONG-TERM PROBLEM THAT NEEDED TO BE ADDRESSED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE OAU WOULD BE SUPPORTIVE; THEIR HUMANITARIAN UNIT (ENCOMPASSING HUMAN RIGHTS) WAS NEW, AND PROBABLY COULD NOT BE OF MUCH ASSISTANCE, BUT THE CONFLICT RESOLUTION UNIT HAD WORKED ON RWANDA AND WOULD PROVIDE ANY APPROPRIATE INFORMATION TO THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR.

3. REGARDING POSSIBLE AFRICAN CANDIDATES FOR SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR, SALIM SAID HE PERSONALLY DID NOT CARE IF IT WAS AN AFRICAN, AS LONG AS THE PERSON WAS COMMITTED AND  
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PAGE 03            ADDIS 03664 172156Z  
OBJECTIVE AND ABLE TO DO THE JOB. THERE WERE HOWEVER SOME EXCELLENT AFRICAN CANDIDATES, PARTICULARLY AT THE AFRICAN COMMISSION FOR HUMAN AND PEOPLE'S RIGHTS, BASED IN BANJUL. HIS TOP CHOICE WOULD BE THE TUNISIAN REPRESENTATIVE THERE (A PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, WHO OBVIOUSLY HAS FRENCH) ALTHOUGH THE FACT THAT TUNISIAN OFFICERS WERE PART OF UNAMIR COULD BE A PROBLEM. SECOND CHOICES WOULD BE EITHER THE REPRESENTATIVES OF GHANA OR NIGERIA, ALTHOUGH FRENCH MIGHT BE A PROBLEM. ANOTHER EXCELLENT CHOICE WOULD BE CAPE VERDE'S REPRESENTATIVE (A WOMAN) WHO HAS EXCELLENT FRENCH.

4. COMMENT. AS SALIM INFORMED A/S SHATTUCK, THE OAU GENERALLY, AND SALIM SPECIFICALLY, ARE VERY COMMITTED TO AN INVESTIGATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN RWANDA. THEY FIND THE SITUATION AN EMBARRASSMENT TO AFRICA AND THE WORLD GENERALLY. WE CAN COUNT ON THEIR SUPPORT TO ANY AND ALL EFFORTS OF THE UNHRC.  
BAAS

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